



Saskatchewan History

Vol. VIII, No. 2

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The
Last Best West

160 Acres Free

HOMES FOR MILLI

1905

Saskatchewan History

Volume VIII

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THE SASKATCHEWAN ARCHIVES BOARD

Pioneer Farming Experiences

In March, 1954, the Saskatchewan Archives Board began circulating Questionnaire No. 6 — Pioneer Farming Experiences — among old-timers of the province. Prepared after consultation with a number of authorities on Saskatchewan agricultural history, the questions cover a wide range of farming activities, including such topics as filing the homestead entry, financing early operations, breaking, kinds of machinery, livestock, natural hazards, harvesting, marketing, fencing and tree-planting. The following article is based on the replies of 161 pioneers who settled in Saskatchewan prior to 1914. It is not intended as a comprehensive survey of the development of farming in Saskatchewan but rather as a presentation of the detail and colour of various aspects recalled by these pioneers. Places and dates used in the text or in the footnotes indicate the pioneer address and date of arrival in Saskatchewan of the respondent.

THE extinction of the claims of the Hudson's Bay Company and the transfer of the North-West Territories to Canada in 1870 made available a vast acreage of open prairie and parkland suitable for agriculture. Within fifteen years, the Dominion government, responsible for the administration of the area, negotiated treaties with the Indian occupants, provided law and order through the establishment of the North-West Mounted Police, surveyed the land, inaugurated a free homestead policy, and subsidized the construction of a trans-continental railway. With these basic elements provided, a stream of settlers flowed into the area in the early 1880's, dwindled to a trickle in the next decade in the face of recurring drought and world-wide depression, then swelled to a flood after the turn of the century. By the beginning of World War I the vast bulk of the agricultural lands had been settled. The Saskatchewan Archives, through its questionnaire on Pioneer Farming Experiences, has been able to contact a large number of farming people who arrived in the province of Saskatchewan during this period of settlement, some as early as 1882. Their replies illuminate the trials and triumphs of pioneer farming in Saskatchewan.

Why did settlers come to the Saskatchewan area? The statements of these old-timers illustrate the influence of free land and the efforts of various promoters — government, railways, land companies, organizations and individuals. Mr. Sydney Chipperfield states that his father read railway pamphlets before leaving England and was advised to go to the Canadian West as the Canadian Pacific Railway was then under construction.¹ Mr. Norman McDonald came with his parents among a group of Scottish crofters settled under the patronage of Lady Cathcart south of Wapella in 1883.² Mr. George A. Hartwell came with his parents as part of a Free Methodist colony³, while Mrs. R. E. Wilson's father was an Anglican missionary who filed on land near Oxbow in 1892.⁴ Mr. Koozma John Tarasoff arrived in 1899, a member of a Doukhobor colony which sought escape from persecution in Russia and had been promised exemption from military service in Canada. He states that they learned about the country from the Society of Friends, Doukhobor leaders, and Count Leo Tolstoi.⁵ Mrs. M. Amanda Aikenhead states that land was expensive in eastern Ontario near Ottawa; so her father came west in 1900 in search of cheaper land on which to establish his two

¹ Mr. Sydney Chipperfield, Chickney. 1883.

² Mr. Norman McDonald, Wapella, 1883.

³ Mr. George A. Hartwell, Pheasant Forks, 1882.

⁴ Mrs. R. E. Wilson, Oxbow, 1892.

⁵ Mr. Koozma John Tarasoff, Henrietta. 1899.

sons.⁶ Mr. Charles Braithwaite decided to come to Indian Head to join an uncle who had arrived twelve years earlier.⁷ Mr. F. P. V. Belliveau had read pamphlets on the Carrot River Valley. He joined with five others in sending one man to investigate the area and file on land for the group.⁸ Some, like Mr. H. C. Baker of Nutana⁹ and Mrs. Winnifred M. Taylor of Paynton¹⁰, were Barr Colonists. Mr. E. G. Cugnet came directly from France at the suggestion of his two brothers who were working for the C.P.R. at Weyburn.¹¹ Mr. G. H. Gerwing learned of opportunities in Saskatchewan from advertisements published in English and German newspapers in the United States.¹² Mr. John Jasper was one of a group of buyers brought up by train to Milestone in 1903 by a real estate dealer at Correctionville, Iowa.¹³ Mr. Arnold Dauk settled at Annaheim under the auspices of the Roman Catholic settlement, St. Peter's Colony, learning of it through their publication, *St. Peter's Bote*.¹⁴ Mr. J. A. Ludlow reports that he learned of the Assiniboia district from government information and newspaper articles.¹⁵ Mr. Henry Andal states: "Some men had been out here and filed on homesteads and came back to Wisconsin where I was working at that time and told me of the 'free' land there was in Saskatchewan."¹⁶ Mr. J. W. Peacock relates that his father got the idea of going west after meeting a couple of horse buyers in the winter of 1910 in his home district in Ontario. He brought out a carload of horses for the buyers and located a homestead near present Mendham.¹⁷

While many of these settlers had previous experience in farming, a considerable proportion had none. Of the 161 replies examined, 47 had not farmed. The diversity of prior occupations is illustrated by the Baines family which had managed a boot and shoe shop in Manchester¹⁸ and Mr. F. W. Humphrey who was a chartered accountant in England.¹⁹ Some gained experience by working for established farmers. Mrs. F. H. Williams of Landis states that her husband learned "like many others, by working on a farm in Manitoba before taking up a homestead in Saskatchewan."²⁰ The experience of those who had farmed often was gained in widely differing areas, like that of Mr. Eric Langgard²¹ and Mr. J. A. Aitken,²² born on farms in Norway and Scotland, respectively, Mr. Wasil N. Hancheroff who worked as a farmer and carpenter in Siberia²³, and Mr. W. M. Affleck who had farmed in Ontario.²⁴ They had to adjust themselves to the requirements of prairie agriculture.

⁶ Mrs. M. Amanda Aikenhead, Melfort, 1900.

⁷ Mr. Charles Braithwaite, Indian Head, 1894.

⁸ Mr. F. P. V. Belliveau, Flett's Springs, 1902.

⁹ Mr. Hastings Charles Baker, Nutana, 1903.

¹⁰ Mrs. Winnifred M. Taylor, Paynton, 1903.

¹¹ Mr. Edmond Gerard Cugnet, Ralph, 1902.

¹² Mr. George Herman Gerwing, Lenora Lake, 1903.

¹³ Mr. John Jasper, Gray, 1903.

¹⁴ Mr. Arnold Dauk, Annaheim, 1904.

¹⁵ Mr. John Abraham Ludlow, Assiniboia, 1905.

¹⁶ Mr. Henry Andal, Spooner, 1911.

¹⁷ Mr. John Wesley Peacock, Maple Creek, 1912.

¹⁸ Mr. Frank Baines, Crescent Lake, 1883.

¹⁹ Mr. Frederick William Humphrey, Star City, 1906.

²⁰ Mrs. Frederick Henry Williams, Landis, 1909.

²¹ Mr. Eric Langgard, Earl Grey, 1905.

²² Mr. John Annan Aitken, Zealandia, 1906.

²³ Mr. Wasil N. Hancheroff, Buchanan, 1905.

²⁴ Mr. William McKenzie Affleck, Battleford, 1906.



Log house of Joseph Donaldson near Broadview, 1888.

On arriving in Saskatchewan the first step was to select and file on homesteads. Of course, for some this step had already been taken, as in the case of the group settlements where the sponsoring organization had secured a block of sections or townships. Mr. Frank Baines reports that his father "homesteaded in Toronto" in July, 1883. He made his entry there, but it was not properly recorded until after his arrival in the West in October, 1883.²⁵ However, many settlers travelled great distances to examine lands and return to the nearest registry office to make application for them. Mr. John Laidlaw's father travelled west from Brandon with wagon and oxen in 1882 looking for land, finally settling by chance in the Grenfell district.²⁶ Mr. R. J. Rutherford's father walked about seventy miles to Birtle, Manitoba, to file on his land.²⁷ Mr. Frank H. Langley rode horseback to Battleford to file on his homestead near Osler.²⁸ Line-ups were frequent at the registry offices, and Mr. J. H. Wallace sat up all night in a land office when he filed on his homestead near Mankota in 1910.²⁹ Some of the settlers availed themselves of the services of land locators. Mr. A. J. Sanders hired a land locator in the Chamberlain district and paid a fee of \$25 for homestead location. He had also to pay for a livery rig and meals, but he felt that time was saved in having help.³⁰ Mr. Joseph Ratcliffe relates that he drove out from Estevan with another man, picking up a locator who could find the corner stakes and tell them what land they were looking at.³¹ The inexperienced sometimes failed to make a wise selection of land. Mr. F. N. Krischke describes his experience in the Beljeannie district: "Being city born Englishmen we were enchanted with the idea

²⁵ Mr. Frank Baines, Crescent Lake. 1883.

²⁶ Mr. John Laidlaw, Grenfell. 1882.

²⁷ Mr. R. J. Rutherford, Fleming. 1882.

²⁸ Mr. Frank H. Langley, Osler. 1893.

²⁹ Mrs. J. H. Wallace, Mankota. 1910.

³⁰ Mr. Alfred John Sanders, Chamberlain. 1906.

³¹ Mr. Joseph Ratcliffe, Hamar. 1906.

of 160 acres for nothing and, it being spring, the creeks (we have two) were burbling over the pebbles, the trees were just breaking into leaf, and the grass was a foot high and thick. Everything looked lovely until a short while after, when a fire burnt off the thick prairie grass and showed up the stones which were very plentiful; even then we did not realize what we had until it was too late to change. We were almost the first people to settle in this part of the country and could have had the best of the land; instead we got the worst."³²

Those who did not homestead purchased land from railways, land companies, or other settlers who had already gained title to their lands. Mrs. Alice W. Downey of Asquith, for example, reports that her father sold their farm in Ontario and used the money to buy land, machinery and horses.³³ However, many of the settlers found it difficult to finance even the homesteading operation. Mr. Frank Baines says, "We all worked out. Mother got the first heifer calf for doing washing for bachelors in the district."³⁴ The Bayles family of Glen Adelaide "gathered lime stone off the prairie, made a kiln, burnt same for seven days and seven nights, and sold it for 25 cents a bushel."³⁵ Mr. Koozma J. Tarasoff worked on municipal roads in the Henrietta district,³⁶ and, at Herbert, Mr. John S. Thiessen's father did carpenter work in town to earn money to keep the farm going.³⁷ Mr. F. P. V. Belliveau earned his ten-dollar homestead fee by working in the bush at Lac du Bonnet.³⁸ Mr. Arthur Tilford recalls that Saskatoon merchants "sold everything on time until we got our crop off." He made a few extra dollars by working on the bridge at Battleford.³⁹ Over the years settlers borrowed money or mortgaged their land to finance operations, make improvements, and purchase machinery or additional property. Of the 161 respondents to the questionnaire 109 mortgaged their farms at one time or another.

Having located a homestead the settler proceeded to construct a house and stable, generally using the materials at hand—sods on the open plain, logs in the parkland, or a combination of both. Representative of these structures was the log house and stable built by Mr. R. E. Bayles near Glen Adelaide in 1895. The chinked walls were made of logs obtained from Moose Mountain, the roofs of poles, with sods and clay on top.⁴⁰ Mr. James Cooper had a log shack with no floor and a sod roof.⁴¹ Mr. G. H. Gerwing at Lenora Lake in 1903 constructed a house of poplar logs hewn flat with an adze, and a granary and barn of round poplar poles.⁴² Mr. Joseph C. Wilson at Lashburn in 1905 built a house of logs from bluffs nearby, bought windows and the lumber for doors, tar paper and sod for the roof, at a cost of about twenty dollars.⁴³ The first Thiessen barn at Herbert in 1905 was a sod one, replaced after two years by a small barn constructed of

³² Mr. F. N. Krischke, Baljeannie. 1905.

³³ Mrs. Alice W. Downey, Asquith. 1910.

³⁴ Mr. Frank Baines, Crescent Lake. 1883.

³⁵ Mr. R. E. Bayles, Glen Adelaide. 1893.

³⁶ Mr. Koozma John Tarasoff, Henrietta. 1899.

³⁷ Mr. John S. Thiessen, Herbert. 1905.

³⁸ Mr. F. P. V. Belliveau, Flett's Springs. 1902.

³⁹ Mr. Arthur Tilford, Saskatoon. 1902.

⁴⁰ Mr. R. E. Bayles, Glen Adelaide. 1893.

⁴¹ Mr. James Cooper, Sheho. 1903.

⁴² Mr. George Herman Gerwing, Lenora Lake. 1903.

⁴³ Mr. Joseph C. Wilson, Lashburn. 1905.

railroad ties. The sod barn did not stand up as the oxen tore the walls out with their thick horns.⁴⁴ Mrs. F. Hardwicke stresses the importance of using sods taken from a slough, as the grass roots were long and held the sod together better.⁴⁵ Exceptions there were to these rough structures. Some people purchased lumber for frame buildings, and a fine concrete house and stone stable were constructed by Mr. C. W. Cates at Qu'Appelle in 1885.⁴⁶ The absence of timber on the prairie which necessitated the construction of dwellings entirely of sod signified also a scarcity of fuel. Mr. K. J. Smith of Watertown reflects, "The greatest difficulty this district had in the early days was obtaining fuel. It had to be hauled from Last Mountain and Little Manitou Lake, both a distance of thirty-five miles. There was no coal available."⁴⁷



Breaking with a "Great West" single-furrow breaking plow in the Semans district.

The first farming operation carried out by these settlers was of course the breaking of the sod. Where stones were present these first had to be cleared from the land. Mr. H. R. Carson of Bladworth recalls that he spent as much time digging stones with a pick as breaking. He used a single ox on a stone-boat to haul them away.⁴⁸ Where there was bush it, too, had to be cleared away. Mr. S. G. Hickley, a pioneer of the Nipawin area, cleared thirteen acres in two years, "grubbed out by hand, axe and grub-hoe, but the land was too wet to break up. Oxen and horses bogged down after the first furrow was turned."⁴⁹

⁴⁴ Mr. John S. Thiessen, Herbert. 1905.

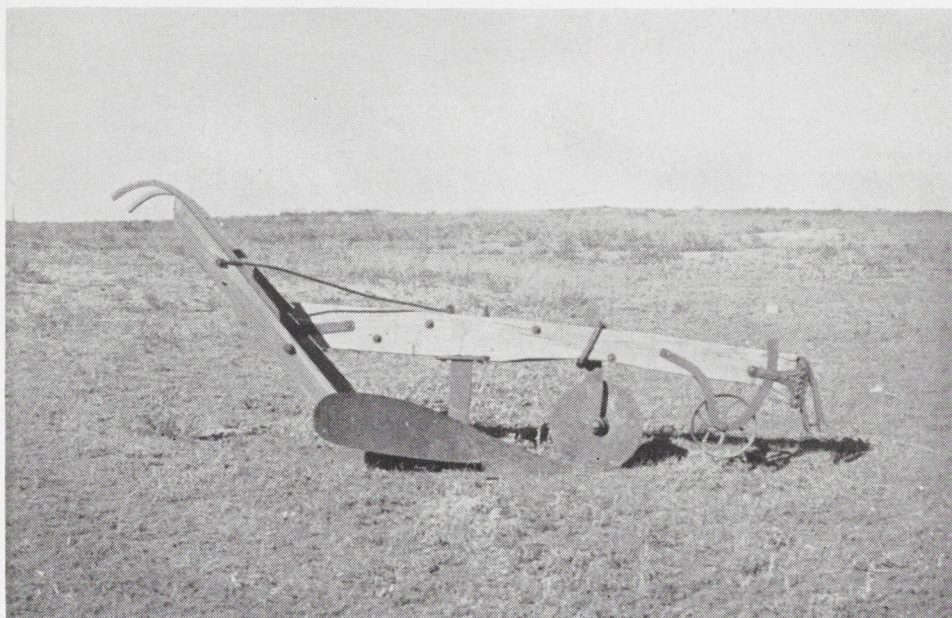
⁴⁵ Mrs. F. Hardwicke, Normanton. 1906.

⁴⁶ Mrs. Catherine E. Cates, Qu'Appelle. 1897.

⁴⁷ Mr. Kenneth Jackson Smith, Watertown. 1905.

⁴⁸ Mr. H. R. Carson, Bladworth. 1905.

⁴⁹ Mr. Stanley George Hickley, Meteor. 1910.



—Albert Andrew Photo

Wooden-beamed walking plow used in the Zelma district, 1905.

The machinery brought by these settlers to commence farming varied according to their means, but in the great majority of cases it amounted to a bare minimum. The Rutherfords at Fleming in 1882 had only a wooden-beamed walking plow and a Red River cart.⁵⁰ The Hartwell family of Indian Head started in 1883 with a wooden-beamed walking plow, a buck-eye mower, a horse rake, a small set of drag harrows, and a cradle.⁵¹ Mr. Achille Godin of St. Louis had a walking plow, harrows, and a small shoe drill.⁵² Mr. R. A. Hill, who homesteaded at Westhope in 1904, started with a walking plow, three sections of diamond harrows, and a disc. He seeded by hand until 1909.⁵³ Seeding by hand was a common practice in view of the limited equipment and small acreages in the first years. Mr. S. H. McWilliams writes that his father rented a farm north of Pasqua in 1885. The father seeded broadcast by hand, while the son, only eleven years old, harrowed it with a yoke of oxen.⁵⁴ Seed was sometimes brought with the settler's effects or purchased locally. Various sources are reflected in the experiences of Mr. Charles Braithwaite, who got his Red Fife wheat from the Dominion Experimental Farm at Indian Head,⁵⁵ of Mr. J. R. Standen at Weyburn where the "town merchants had it shipped in by car load from the Main Line, and it was plenty dirty,"⁵⁶ and of Mr. Koozma J. Tarasoff, who brought seed wheat from Russia but found it to be too hard for milling.⁵⁷ Wheat was frequently seeded as the "breaking crop," but oats, barley and flax were also used.

⁵⁰ Mr. R. J. Rutherford, Fleming. 1882.

⁵¹ Mr. George A. Hartwell, Pheasant Forks. 1882.

⁵² Mr. Achille Godin, St. Louis. 1892.

⁵³ Mr. Robert Alexander Hill, Westhope. 1904.

⁵⁴ Mr. S. H. McWilliams, Moose Jaw. 1884.

⁵⁵ Mr. Charles Braithwaite, Indian Head. 1894.

⁵⁶ Mr. John R. Standen, Weyburn. 1899.

⁵⁷ Mr. Koozma John Tarasoff, Henrietta. 1899.

Harvesting and threshing in the early years was accomplished in many instances by what now seem primitive means. Mr. G. A. Hartwell of Pheasant Forks states that they cut grain with a cradle and threshed it with a flail in 1882.⁵⁸ The Widdess family at Rocanville used scythes and even sickles in the corners of the fields that first year, 1883, to cut their thirty-five acres of crop. Flails and a fanning mill were used for threshing. Mr. Widdess describes the fanning mill as "a godsend, and the only reason we had one was because that was one of the products my father manufactured in Ontario . . . the wagon, sleighs, cutter and buggy were also of his own make, and he brought some extra wheels, too."⁵⁹ Mrs. E. M. Duncan, who came to Regina in 1884, also remembers her father harvesting with a scythe and cradle, and threshing with a flail.⁶⁰ Mr. R. E. Bayles recalls that threshing was sometimes as late as January because there were so few threshing machines,⁶¹ while Mr. C. O. Atkins states that sometimes they had to leave the grain stacked for two years before a machine came along.⁶² Mr. G. F. W. Bruce at Headlands used a binder and flail in 1905, but in 1906 a binder and portable steam thresher, hand fed and straw bucked.⁶³ Mr. Z. T. Bartel started at Humboldt in 1905 "with a self-binder and J. I. Case Thresher powered by a portable steam engine, that is, an engine that had to be pulled about by horses or oxen."⁶⁴ Mr. C. F. Sentance harvested "with a 6-foot binder drawn by three oxen, driver walking with team with a prod stick. No bundle carrier was used. Separate bundles dropped all over the field. Hand stooked later. The first year [1908] a big steam outfit threshed the crop with a crew of 28 men."⁶⁵ An interesting threshing procedure is described by Mr. M. W. Bloodoff who came as a member of a Doukhobor colony to Verigin: "After preparing a round strip of ground by packing it hard, sheaves were laid on this round patch. Then a series of logs, tied one behind the other, were towed by a wagon and oxen. One man was required to sit on the wagon and drive the oxen around in a circle. After the grain kernels were loosened from the stalks we cleaned the grain by throwing it with a shovel into the air to get rid of the chaff."⁶⁶

Marketing the crop in the days before branch railway lines were built involved long trips for pioneer settlers. The Hartwell family winter hauled with oxen and horses fifty miles to Wolseley,⁶⁷ and Mrs. Kate Belle Stirling reports a haul of similar length from the Consul district to Maple Creek.⁶⁸ Mrs. M. Amanda Aikenhead states that they hauled grain eighty miles from Melfort to Prince Albert⁶⁹ while Mr. David Todd of Keppel used a sleigh to transport grain sixty miles to Saskatoon.⁷⁰ The trail from the Glen Bain district to Morse was some

⁵⁸ Mr. George A. Hartwell, Pheasant Forks. 1882.

⁵⁹ Mr. R. W. Widdess, Rocanville. 1883.

⁶⁰ Mrs. Elizabeth M. Duncan (nee McIntosh), Regina. 1884.

⁶¹ Mr. R. E. Bayles, Glen Adelaide. 1893.

⁶² Mr. Chris. O. Atkins, Star City. 1906.

⁶³ Mr. G. F. W. Bruce, Headlands. 1904.

⁶⁴ Mr. Zacharias Thomas Bartel, Humboldt. 1905.

⁶⁵ Mr. C. F. Sentance, Brombury. 1908.

⁶⁶ Mr. M. W. Bloodoff, Verigin. 1899.

⁶⁷ Mr. George A. Hartwell, Pheasant Forks. 1882.

⁶⁸ Mrs. Kate Belle Stirling, Consul. 1899.

⁶⁹ Mrs. M. Amanda Aikenhead, Melfort. 1900.

⁷⁰ Mr. David Todd, Keppel. 1905.

fifty miles in length, and Mr. Philip Stapleton travelled it fifty-seven times one winter and summer.⁷¹

Prior to the construction of grain elevators, grain was stored in flat warehouses for future shipment or loaded directly on railway cars. A flat warehouse was in use at Grenfell from 1885 until 1892,⁷² and, at Fleming, Mr. R. J. Rutherford recalls that his father helped construct a flat warehouse in 1884-85 which was used until an elevator was built in 1895.⁷³ Mr. S. H. McWilliams recalls the flat warehouses used in Moose Jaw in the middle 1880's and 90's: "As a boy I delivered grain to those. When a car was spotted at the warehouse two men used a square box with handles extended forward and back along each side of the box, filled it with grain and the two men carried it into the car, wading up into the end of the car and going back for more, all done by hand labor."⁷⁴ Mr. R. A. Hill of Westhope states, "We never had a flat warehouse, just a loading platform. We loaded our first wheat into cars from wagon or sleigh by hand."⁷⁵ Mr. G. H. Gerwing of Lenora Lake recalls loading over the platform, although sometimes they loaded right along the tracks from the wagon or sleigh to the car.⁷⁶ In the early years of settlement it was a common practice to haul grain in sacks. Mr. J. D. Tulloch delivered wheat to an elevator in Yorkton where the bags were emptied into a "hopper affair" and weighed.^{76a}

The various farming operations—breaking, seeding, harvesting, hauling—were carried out principally by the individual farmer with whatever help members of the family could give. Neighbors helped each other in threshing time, and the steam threshing outfits carried a large complement of men. Mrs. J. H. Wallace of Mankota remarks that their children were small when they came to the farm. "As they grew up they assisted in all the work. We used to keep a man in the summer, and rush help at harvest."⁷⁷ Mr. Thomas Drever of Piapot hired Indians to do the stooking at so much an acre.⁷⁸ Various bees were held to construct buildings or to assist farmers who were ill. The Baines' house at Crescent Lake was put up by a neighbourhood bee in 1884.⁷⁹ Mr. Sydney Chipperfield writes that at one time a family in his district were all down with typhoid fever and the neighbours worked their land for them. He also attended a barn raising for the Hon. W. R. Motherwell.⁸⁰

Motive power on early farms in Saskatchewan was provided initially by oxen, with a transition to horses, and within the period of settlement to steam engines, used mainly for belt power, although some pioneers of this group report their use for breaking. No less than 102 of the 161 respondents to the Pioneer Farming Questionnaire used oxen. The trials and tribulations of handling oxen have become

⁷¹ Mr. Philip Stapleton, Morse. 1907.

⁷² Mr. John Laidlaw, Grenfell. 1882.

⁷³ Mr. R. J. Rutherford, Fleming. 1882.

⁷⁴ Mr. S. H. McWilliams, Moose Jaw. 1884.

⁷⁵ Mr. Robert Alexander Hill, Westhope. 1904.

⁷⁶ Mr. George Herman Gerwing, Lenora Lake. 1903.

^{76a} Mr. James D. Tulloch, Wadena, 1897.

⁷⁷ Mrs. J. H. Wallace, Mankota. 1910.

⁷⁸ Mr. Thomas Drever, Piapot. 1910.

⁷⁹ Mr. Frank Baines, Crescent Lake. 1883.

⁸⁰ Mr. Sydney Chipperfield, Chickney. 1883.

part of the folklore of the province. Like many others, Mr. Harry Ford of Humboldt recalls being stuck in a slough with six of them still on the gang plow, and on another occasion they ran away hitched to the diamond harrows.⁸¹ While plowing, Mr. Joseph C. Wilson of Lashburn struck a bee's nest and the oxen ran away, smashing the plow.⁸² Mr. O. Antoniuk of Calder broke land with a team of oxen and a walking plow, assisted by a girl of fifteen years of age leading the oxen. He was kept extremely busy trying to hold the plow while his assistant was equally busy directing the oxen which had a tendency to go anywhere but in the right direction. Sometimes they failed to hold the oxen from running into a slough, and they would sit down, both in tears over their fight with them.⁸³ Mr. Jasper Fisher writes that an ox he had would go to the barn or into a slough for a drink and take him, the plow, and the rest of the team with him at will, until he got a ring for his nose.⁸⁴ However, oxen had their merits, as Mr. G. P. Marriott points out: "Oxen . . . were cheaper than horses, did not need oats which were scarce, or stabling, except in winter, and were never known to exceed the speed limit."⁸⁵ Mr. Eric Langgard also pays them a tribute: "The oxen took me home many a time when it was too dark and stormy to see the road."⁸⁶

In addition to oxen and horses used for field work, pioneer farmers built up herds of livestock to augment their income from wheat and other crops. Mr. Frank Baines of Crescent Lake, experiencing indifferent success with grain growing, depended on cattle as a mainstay until about 1900. He had almost 100 cattle and



Cutting oats with yoke of oxen and binder.

⁸¹ Mr. Harry Ford, Humboldt. 1903.

⁸² Mr. Joseph C. Wilson, Lashburn. 1905.

⁸³ Mr. O. Antoniuk, Calder. 1910.

⁸⁴ Mr. Jasper Fisher, Cressman. 1905.

⁸⁵ Mr. George Parks Marriott, Morse. 1908.

⁸⁶ Mr. Eric Langgard, Earl Grey. 1905.

thirty horses at one time.⁸⁷ Cream was churned into butter and sold or exchanged for groceries in the local trading centre. Preserving milk and cream presented a problem. Mr. G. A. Hartwell states that milk was saved in jars and skimmed with a flat piece of tin punched with holes.⁸⁸ Mrs. Jessie E. Cameron saved milk and cream in a dug-out cellar under the house.⁸⁹ A number of old-timers report that they lowered milk in deep cans or creamers down a well. Mr. K. J. Smith built a sod ice house in 1907, and packed ice in flax straw.⁹⁰ Mr. John Laidlaw of Grenfell kept milk and cream in a sod milk house, and got a cream separator in 1902.⁹¹ Cream separators do not appear to have been common in this province until after the turn of the century. In addition to Mr. Laidlaw, other early purchasers of cream separators were Mr. Norman McDonald of Wapella in 1900⁹² and Mr. J. H. Sidebottom of Forest Hall near North Battleford, who purchased one in Manitoba in 1903.⁹³ Mrs. C. E. Diggle of Prince Albert believes her father had one about 1898. They made enough butter for home use, and sold milk to the Prince Albert creamery. A driver collected the milk each morning from all the farms. She recalls that a family of skunks settled under the building in its second year of operation, ruining the stock of butter and temporarily putting the creamery out of business.⁹⁴

Garden produce also augmented the diet of Saskatchewan settlers; occasionally it provided almost the sole subsistence. Mrs. Alice Dopson remarks that in their third year in the province they lived on potatoes and other garden produce, and survived!⁹⁵ Garden seeds were purchased at local stores or ordered by mail; many people brought the seeds for their first gardens with them. Mr. R. W. Widdess writes: "Potatoes were brought from Ontario for seed, and the stock from the first crop, 1884, was distributed around among the settlers, and is still going strong (1884-1954). I found this out from James Carscadden living at Wapella in 1953. He is still using seed potatoes from the stock my father gave him in 1889."⁹⁶ Mr. John Cowell was among those who commenced the cultivation of fruit trees and flowering shrubs soon after their arrival in Saskatchewan. In 1907 he planted raspberries, currants, gooseberries, and rhubarb. The following year he added crabapples, plums, lilacs, and honeysuckle.⁹⁷ Also representative of many settlers was the decision of Mr. J. R. Standen to plant trees. He obtained Manitoba maple, white ash, and Carolina poplar from the Dominion Experimental Farm at Indian Head in 1902. His interest had been aroused by a visit of Angus MacKay, Superintendent of the Indian Head Farm, to Weyburn in the winter of 1901. MacKay, advocating tree planting, told his audience that he had seen districts "as badly in need of tree-planting as Weyburn, but none worse."⁹⁸

⁸⁷ Mr. Frank Baines, Crescent Lake. 1883.

⁸⁸ Mr. George A. Hartwell, Pheasant Forks. 1882.

⁸⁹ Mrs. Jessie E. Cameron, Findlater. 1902.

⁹⁰ Mr. Kenneth Jackson Smith, Waterton. 1905.

⁹¹ Mr. John Laidlaw, Grenfell. 1882.

⁹² Mr. Norman McDonald, Wapella. 1883.

⁹³ Mr. James Henry Sidebottom, Forest Hall. 1906.

⁹⁴ Mrs. C. E. Diggle, Prince Albert. 1883.

⁹⁵ Mrs. Alice Dopson, Adanac. 1903.

⁹⁶ Mr. R. W. Widdess, Rocanville. 1883.

⁹⁷ Mr. John Cowell, Jansen. 1906.

⁹⁸ Mr. John R. Standen, Weyburn. 1899.

Some settlers, like Mr. W. M. Affleck of the Naseby district and Mr. H. R. Carson who homesteaded near present Glenside, irrigated their gardens. Mr. Affleck ran water on his garden from a windmill well,⁹⁹ while Mr. Carson was an early user of dugouts to supply water for gardening.¹⁰⁰

As they acquired livestock pioneer farmers began to construct fences to protect their gardens and crops, and to keep their livestock at home. Mr. G. A. Hartwell of Pheasant Forks had a rail fence around his garden,¹⁰¹ and Mr. R. W. Widdess describes the construction of their rail fence, built from materials at hand. It consisted of two stakes fastened together with willow withes on which the rails rested.¹⁰² Mr. John Laidlaw's father fenced his pasture in 1886 with barbed wire and poplar posts.¹⁰³ Mr. Frank Baines states that they began with a rail fence around their crops in 1890, and fenced all their land with barbed wire in 1910.¹⁰⁴

Stray animals were, of course, only a minor hazard among the many which confronted these settlers and which in varying degrees still persist in prairie agriculture. One of the most feared was the prairie fire. Mr. R. J. Rutherford of Fleming reports that they lost their entire crop, hay, stable, and granary in a prairie fire in the fall of 1886.¹⁰⁵ Mr. Sydney Chipperfield records a similar loss of all their grain, feed, stables, eleven good pigs, and harness through a disastrous prairie fire in the Chickney district in 1896.¹⁰⁶ While some districts were relatively free, violent hailstorms are reported by many old-timers. Mrs. M. Amanda Aikenhead describes one in 1899 as the worst hail storm ever known in the Melfort district. Cattle were killed and all the crops and gardens battered to the ground.¹⁰⁷ Blizzards in winter, then as now, were a hazard to owners of livestock and to people who might be caught in them, not to mention the isolation often brought about by prolonged cold and deep snow. Nearly every old-timer recalls a particularly bad winter. The worst in the experience of Mr. Harry Ford was that of 1906-07 when the train did not get through from Saskatoon to Humboldt for six weeks.¹⁰⁸

Gophers, a pest prevalent in the early years, did extensive damage to crops and gardens. Mr. E. G. Cugnet estimates that the loss to his crops from this source was as high as ten per cent.,¹⁰⁹ and Mr. R. E. Bayles remarks, "Gophers—it used to be a fight between us who should have the crop. The Government supplied us with poison which we mixed with wheat and placed in their holes."¹¹⁰ Mrs. J. E. Cameron describes her struggle with the gophers: "My husband brought me a .22 rifle to keep them out of the garden. Gardens meant so much to the homesteaders for winter vegetables. I had to learn to handle the .22 and

⁹⁹ Mr. William McKenzie Affleck, Battleford. 1906.

¹⁰⁰ Mr. H. R. Carson, Bladworth. 1905.

¹⁰¹ Mr. George A. Hartwell, Pheasant Forks. 1882.

¹⁰² Mr. R. W. Widdess, Rocanville. 1884.

¹⁰³ Mr. John Laidlaw, Fleming. 1882.

¹⁰⁴ Mr. Frank Baines, Crescent Lake. 1883.

¹⁰⁵ Mr. R. J. Rutherford, Fleming. 1882.

¹⁰⁶ Mr. Sydney Chipperfield, Chickney. 1883.

¹⁰⁷ Mrs. M. Amanda Aikenhead, Melfort. 1899.

¹⁰⁸ Mr. Harry Ford, Humboldt. 1903.

¹⁰⁹ Mr. Edmond Gerard Cugnet, Ralph. 1902.

¹¹⁰ Mr. R. E. Bayles, Glen Adelaide. 1893.



Harvesting with Rumely Oil-Pull Tractor about 1907.

would go out to the garden to see gophers scampering all over. They were quite safe in my presence. After I'd shot, the gopher would stand up in the same place on his hind legs and with front paws chew away at my garden stuff and seem to say to me, 'Try again, novice.' I longed for the day I could tumble them over and I kept practising, and was able before long to tumble over a good many to save my garden."¹¹¹ Coyotes, too, were troublesome to raisers of poultry. Mr. J. B. Dickey writes: "One year they cleaned up all our chickens but nine, and they took some every year. I put out some scare crows which perhaps helped to keep them away. After we lost so many that year, we changed to Leghorns, as they could fly up into the trees and get away from the coyotes better than the heavier Plymouth Rocks."¹¹²

Among the insect pests which attacked the crops, cutworms were particularly damaging. A unique attack upon them is described by Mr. Thomas Drever of Piapot: "I remember one year there were a number of patches on one quarter section eaten by cutworms and the following year nearly all the field was destroyed. As there were some sea gulls around I thought I would feed them so went out and harrowed the ground. The birds followed for awhile, hundreds of them. This I did every day as long as the birds would feed, with the result that the following year there wasn't the sign of a worm."¹¹³

Perhaps the most aggravating of all the pests of the period were the mosquitoes whose size and numbers serve as the basis for many tall tales of our old-timers. Some report wearing veils all summer long for protection from them. Others relate that oxen hitched to machinery would head for the barns when they were bad. Mr. G. R. Craig used to hang a pail containing a smudge to the neck yoke of his horses in order to discourage them.¹¹⁴ Mr. H. R. Carson describes the precautions he took: "In order to hold the walking plow I used a cheese cloth hood and machine-oiled my hands, and had to make blankets out of jute sacks for the oxen."¹¹⁵ Mr. Arthur Tilford humorously credits them with his decision to remain in Saskatchewan: "I had promised my father I would be back home in England by Christmas, 1902. The mosquitoes had planted the prairie atmosphere into my veins and I couldn't leave!"¹¹⁶

The absence in the early years of settlement of a later hazard, the noxious weeds, is stressed by respondents to this questionnaire. Many report no weeds at all when they arrived; others recall only one or two, such as the pigweed reported at Grenfell, Fleming, Crescent Lake, Prince Albert, and other places. Mrs. C. E. Diggle of Prince Albert remembers the first mustard when it appeared in their district in 1894. Her father promised her brother and herself a holiday if they would pull it from the wheat field.¹¹⁷ Mr. Achille Godin who homesteaded near St. Louis in 1892 saw no weeds at first, but after about fifteen years started to

¹¹¹ Mrs. Jessie E. Cameron, Findlater. 1902.

¹¹² Mr. J. B. Dickey, Langbank. 1892.

¹¹³ Mr. Thomas Drever, Piapot. 1910.

¹¹⁴ Mr. G. R. Craig, Boraston. 1906.

¹¹⁵ Mr. H. R. Carson, Bladworth. 1905.

¹¹⁶ Mr. Arthur Tilford, Saskatoon. 1902.

¹¹⁷ Mrs. C. E. Diggle, Prince Albert. 1883.

find wild oats, stinkweed, thistles, and mustard.¹¹⁸ Mr. Harry Ford of Humboldt noted some wild oats and "common mustard" when he homesteaded in 1903; pigweed and buckwheat appeared about 1914, both Canada and sow thistle in 1925, and frenchweed and blue burr not until 1930.¹¹⁹ Most of the weeds appear to have been brought into the province in improperly cleaned seed. Mr. F. N. Krischke of Baljennie credits a railway construction gang with bringing in Russian thistle and frenchweed in horse feed which was strewn along the right-of-way,¹²⁰ and Mr. C. Evans Sargent suggests a similar source of wild oats in the Eyre district in 1918.¹²¹ Mrs. L. M. Purdy, whose father homesteaded near Pense, writes: "After the drought years of 1886, seed wheat was brought in by the government and many who had no crop used it for seed. This seed was full of yellow mustard seed."¹²²

In addition to the hazards already mentioned, these pioneers faced other difficulties. They record their experiences in face of drought, wind and dust, rust, smut, grasshoppers, sawflies, and caterpillars. Many experienced all of them at one time or another and they could conclude as Mr. W. T. Riach of the Bleakmore district does, "We have been hailed, dried, frosted, and lastly drowned out!"¹²³

Living in relative isolation and confronted with various hardships, pioneers welcomed visits by the North-West Mounted Police who called to see how they were getting along. Some report regular calls at intervals as frequent as every two weeks, in other localities two or three times a year. Farmers signed the constables' patrol cards on these occasions. Mr. John M. Allan of the Naseby district recalls visits of the R.N.W.M.P. to see if they were still alive and to direct them in the control of prairie fires.¹²⁴ Mr. Ernest S. Potter visited the Eastend Police Post almost weekly. The police brought the settlers' mail for them from Maple Creek, a distance of fifty miles.¹²⁵ Mr. F. W. Humphrey writes, "A friend near Star City, arriving in 1903, told me what a comfort it was to him when a Mountie called. He had brought his wife and two daughters out to the wilds from Manitoba, and had his misgivings."¹²⁶

Asked to suggest the outstanding pioneers of their districts, giving reasons for their choice, the respondents list persons who were successful farmers, some who were active in crop and herd improvement, others who organized agricultural societies and fairs, and people prominent in the grain growers' movement, politics and public life generally. However, these pioneers recall more frequently the settlers who were most helpful to others, in hospitality, in lending assistance and advice in regard to farming operations, and in giving help and comfort in time of sickness or other need. One lady remarks that, rather than those who were

¹¹⁸ Mr. Achille Godin, St. Louis. 1892.

¹¹⁹ Mr. Harry Ford, Humboldt. 1903.

¹²⁰ Mr. F. N. Krischke, Baljeannie. 1905.

¹²¹ Mr. C. Evans Sargent, Kindersley. 1911.

¹²² Mrs. L. M. Purdy (nee Neville), Regina. 1883.

¹²³ Mr. W. T. Riach, Bleakmore. 1904.

¹²⁴ Mr. John M. Allan, Battleford. 1906.

¹²⁵ Mr. Ernest S. Potter, Eastend. 1894.

¹²⁶ Mr. Frederick William Humphrey, Star City. 1906.

financially successful, "it was the struggling homesteaders with families who were eager to keep newcomers and helped to establish schools, churches, roads, and telephones." Another refers to those who had faith in the possibilities of the country, stood by that faith, and made a success of their undertaking. One man cites those who were "always ready to give a meal, a cheer and comfort to us lonesome Englishmen." Still another pays special tribute to the women who left comfortable homes in long-established communities. He writes: "Such is the boundless faith and courage of our women; they left all this to share in the fortunes of the men of their choice. Too much praise cannot be given to our brave pioneer women." These tributes are shared by the present generation as we recall the experiences of our pioneer farming people.

ALLAN R. TURNER.

QUESTIONNAIRE NOTES

"When I arrived at Fort Qu'Appelle in 1904 I found that owing to the extremely heavy snowfall of the previous winter the Qu'Appelle River had overflowed its banks so that the grade approach to the old wooden bridge had been under several feet of water. Several hundred homesteaders going to the File Hills, Loon Creek, and Last Mountain Valley had to stay in their tents for about two weeks until the water subsided. To pass the time we fished from the river bank and caught large numbers of pike and pickerel, far more than we could possibly use. The only road going north was up the old Telegraph Hill which was just a prairie trail up a winding steep coulee. From there I followed the old Touchwood Trail, which at that time was a dozen or so deep ruts which meandered in a generally northerly direction to Kutawa. Upon arriving at a point where a half breed family lived, whose name was Sangre, I turned off in a north-westerly direction to my homestead. This Sangre ran a stopping place for homesteaders where for fifty cents you could have your team fed for the night and got a chance to sleep on the kitchen floor. One also got supper consisting of tea and bannock, and for breakfast about a quart of porridge with milk—all this for fifty cents!" (G. F. W. Bruce, Headlands, 1904).

"We started in the spring of 1897 to plant shelter belts and ornamental shrubs, got a good many plants from Ottawa Experimental Farm. My aunt in Ontario sent me cuttings of red and white currants and gooseberries, and they grew well. We had very fine rhubarb, which Mr. Purdy (Senior) brought from Ontario in 1883, and his sons had planted asparagus. We planted raspberries, too. A few years later Mr. Dobbin in Regina got me strawberry plants from near Collingwood, I think Glen Mary and another variety. We covered them in winter and they did moderately well." (Mrs. L. M. Purdy, Regina, 1883 [Boggy Creek district, 1896]).

—*Saskatchewan Archives Questionnaire: Pioneer Farming Experiences.*

Regina in 1895: The Fair and the Fair Sex

The following article is a chapter from *Regina: The Queen City*, a history sponsored by the City of Regina as a tribute to Saskatchewan's Golden Jubilee. Written by Earl G. Drake, this work will be published in the autumn by McClelland and Stewart, Toronto. This chapter is reproduced here with the kind permission of the publisher.

The Editor.

THE great Territorial fair took place in 1895. To assist this project a citizens' committee had been at work since the previous year, and the town council had voted the large sum of \$10,000. Lieutenant-Governor Charles Mackintosh had instigated the exhibition and was the main force behind it. He took a hand in persuading the Territorial Government to contribute \$10,000 and also induced the Dominion to give \$25,000. No wonder then that the fair was on everyone's lips.

The newspapers stressed that, while it was to be held in the capital, the exhibition belonged to the *whole* North-West Territories. This was further emphasized by the presence on the Exhibition Board of such distinguished non-Reginans as Mike Oxarat of Maple Creek, Major Bell of the Bell farm, and Angus McKay of Indian Head. The Governor talked up this point effectively as he toured the North-West conferring with Agricultural Societies and other groups in order to encourage as large an entry list as possible.

There was little need for encouragement to prospective competitors however, for the prize list—the largest ever offered west of Toronto—almost sold itself. Totalling over \$19,000, it seemed fabulous at a time when good steers were selling at 3c a pound. There were over one hundred classes of competitors including some very practical, if unusual, ones. For obvious reasons, \$500 was offered for the best prairie fire extinguisher. Also included was a prize for the largest collection of gopher tails; and a desire to encourage mixed farming led to a competition requiring from an entrant two bushels each of wheat, oats, barley and peas, a half bushel of flax, and two female and one male of each of cattle, sheep and swine. A further inducement was the information, on the prize lists, that the railway had consented to give low rates for travel to the fair, and free transportation for exhibits.

Interest was mounting all over the West, but before the great event could take place, much had to be done in Regina. The small fair site down-town had sufficed up till now, but obviously it was inadequate for the larger project. Accordingly the townsite trustees were persuaded to grant, for a small sum, approximately one hundred acres for exhibition and agricultural purposes. This fine site, although some distance west of town at this time, was to prove so satisfactory that it has been the home of all subsequent local fairs. Once the ground was secured, construction began in earnest on a two-storey main building (featuring a central fountain), two bandstands, a 1200 seat grandstand, a platform, "the fastest half-mile track in Canada", three water wells and two windmill pumps.

The town council, after sharing in the cost of this construction on the grounds, found, to its chagrin, that it faced other expensive obligations as well. Very



Opening Ceremonies, Territorial Exhibition, Regina, 1895.

reluctantly, a four foot wide wooden sidewalk was constructed over the one-half mile of mud from Albert St. to the exhibition grounds. The town was also asked to provide accommodation for the three thousand to four thousand expected visitors, but it replied bluntly that Regina's hotels and boarding houses could look after one thousand, and the fair management must provide for the rest. Eventually both parties took a hand in solving the problem; the Town Hall and Curling Rink were converted into sleeping quarters, and the Governor persuaded the Minister of Militia to supply blankets and several avenues of tents for the overflow.

At last the opening day, July 30, arrived. If one was in Regina on that gala occasion, he was sure to join the almost three thousand visitors and citizens who headed for the fair grounds, mostly via the C.P.R.'s special car-shunting service which operated between town and exhibition. Everyone was on hand early for the pomp of the formal opening by Lord and Lady Aberdeen, and for the release of the six homing pigeons with their message for the *Winnipeg Free Press*. People also wished to see such dignitaries as Prime Minister Mackenzie Bowell and T. M. Daly, the Minister of the Interior.

With the formalities over, men took their families to visit the exhibits because they believed the displays to be educational for town and country folk alike (and besides they were free). In addition to the grain and vegetable entries, there was the finest livestock display ever assembled in the Territories. Every common breed was represented amongst the 900 head of stock on exhibit. Usually a special lingering pause of admiration was given to the prize-winning thoroughbred horses

owned by the Beckton brothers from Cannington Manor, for even townsmen appreciated equine beauty in this cart and buggy age.

The industrial exhibits were a surprise to many who had no idea that these agricultural prairies produced cutters, buggies, buffalo coats, boots, straw hats, gates, saddles, pottery, furniture, beer and soft drinks. Adjacent to the cooking and sewing exhibit was the crowded little fine arts section. This contained some very presentable oils and watercolors, landscapes and portraits, crayon, ink and pencil scenes, and a photographic section. But the most unusual items were two new western publications, Alexander Begg's *History of the North-West*, and *Prairie Pot Pourri*, 186 pages of mixed prose and verse for \$1.00, written by a Regina author, Kate Simpson Hayes, under the pen-name of Mary Markwell. The exhibits of all kinds numbered some 7,600, and they came from as far west as Calgary and as far east as Ontario.

If one spent the afternoon inspecting exhibits, the evening was usually devoted to the midway. Featured were several games, a trick bicyclist, a famous drummer, trapeze artists, three Bouffons, and an Indian Chief who charmed rattlesnakes. Darkness did not stop proceedings, for the grounds were electrically illuminated from a special dynamo. The town too put on a special effort by turning on the street lights every night of the fair.

In addition to those outsiders' shows, there was the big "National Fair" tent, run by the local Knox Church Ladies Aid. Each of the fifteen booths was attended by a costumed lady selling products of the country she represented—Japanese curios, Turkish candy, Irish linen, American popcorn and peanuts, and so on. A 25c admission entitled one to witness seventy-five Knox girls perform a pageant and dances representing the various nations. The finale paid homage to Canada and her great Territorial Exhibition with the locally composed song "Hail Canada". Regardless of how much had been seen, few fair-goers left the grounds without watching the most famous side-show of all—the 2½ hour performance of Gen. Tom Thumb's ten midgits.

What a day! And still to be seen were horse races, polo, trap shooting, baseball, lacrosse, cricket, bicycle and foot races, the Mounties' Musical Ride, a tennis tournament, and a fancy dress bicycle parade. These activities constituted the monster gymkhana held in conjunction with the fair, which was marred only by an irate Regina team pulling out of the baseball tournament in protest against the umpire's partiality to Moose Jaw. Some of the greatest interest centred on Moosewa, the far-famed Indian sprinter from Northern Alberta, who challenged all comers. It seemed that there was considerable financial as well as purely sporting interest in the muscular brave, for when he was finally beaten in one thrilling race, some \$4,000 changed hands among the spectators!

Even aside from Moosewa and his snake-charmer compatriot, the Indians put on quite a display. The large, elaborately decorated building which housed their handicraft and also farm produce displays, had been entirely built by the pupils of the Regina Indian Industrial School, who also published a little daily paper at the fair. Between races one afternoon, the natives, decked in paint and

feathers, gave a vigorous pow-wow and the chiefs exchanged ceremonial greetings with the Governor-General. Most colorful of all were the four Indian boys' brass bands which competed for Lord Aberdeen's \$25 first prize. So impressed was the noble Lord by the music, and perhaps by the flashy green and red, or red, yellow and gold, uniforms, that he ordered medals struck for all the boys, in addition to the prize. The bands also took turns performing, along with three other bands and Winnipeg vocalists, at the evening concerts given at the bandstands. As a reward for all the color they lent to proceedings the tribesmen were admitted free to all the shows. Indeed, the Indians played a very happy part in the whole proceedings. Their displays showed considerable progress toward assimilation to reserve life, and the exemplary conduct of the ancient Cree and Blackfoot enemies toward each other illustrated their marked progress away from brutal warfare within a scant two decades.

By August 7, when the whole exposition ended, the majority agreed that the posters had been right when they advertised "an education for 25c". Grateful citizens presented Lieutenant Governor Mackintosh with a portrait of himself in recognition of his services. Fair week ended literally with a bang, as the big water tank on South Railway picked that occasion to collapse, spewing eight thousand gallons of water in every direction. Then quiet descended. The visitors left and tents came down, the bagpipes and Red River jig competitions ceased. Young Jim Grassick reluctantly turned from carting the girls to and from the Knox pageant back to his regular livery business, and the town council turned out the street lights. Things were back to normal.

The basic idea of having a Territorial Exhibition to publicize the produce of the North-West and to encourage, by competition, the raising of better types of animals and grains, was generally applauded. But there was some criticism of the spending of large sums of money during a depression when other things were badly needed. Several people charged that funds had been squandered. They pointed to the fact that \$800 was lavished on a champagne supper; that the fair was now in debt; and that Lieutenant Governor Mackintosh, its manager, was avoiding creditors. Bad times affected the exhibition as everything else in 1895.

The great extravaganza affected all phases of community life to some extent that year, even including religion. The Knox pageant served to swell that Church's coffers and to demonstrate that it had the liveliest, most active congregation in the town. The Methodist and Baptist services were well attended for the special exhibition Church parade. The Roman Catholic parish was encouraged by a visit from Archbishop Langevin of St. Boniface, who conducted solemn high mass in a tent on the fair grounds. At this impressive ceremony the music was supplied by Indians and sermons were delivered in Cree, Saulteaux, and Blackfoot. Before his departure the Archbishop was presented with an address by the English, French, Polish, Austrian and German Catholics of Regina. The Anglican community also progressed, with the Bishop dedicating the nave of the new St. Paul's Church, which was to be added to later as funds would permit. It was December of the same year when the Rev. W. R. Brown of St. Paul's conducted the dedication service for the new North-West Mounted Police Chapel, which was to impress so many visitors in future years.

The religious group that received the greatest stimulus from the exhibition activity, however, was a new group called the Salvation Army. Two devoted young women first brought the Army to Regina in June. Bravely parading South Railway Street with Captain Isaacson beating the big drum and the lieutenant playing her concertina, they attracted quite a crowd. But they had a congregation of only four at first, and the press was not too sympathetic, describing them under the heading "Devil Whacking at Regina". The ladies were glad of the help from extra Army officers who came to hold open air afternoon services at the fair. With this lift, and with the remarkable conversion of one of the town's most notorious reprobates to their credit, the Salvationists gradually increased in strength.

This arrival of the army's female evangelists suggests that the year 1895 was notable for events other than the holding of the great fair. Many of these showed that women now were playing a more assertive part in the political, social and cultural life of the community.

Although in a minority, Regina's women had shared in building the community since its beginnings. The married men among the pioneer settlers had left their wives and families in the East until they could secure land and erect a shack. Then they brought their wives west to perform the difficult task of transforming these rude shacks into homes. The ladies worked quietly at their important tasks in the home, church, and school, where women belonged according to Victorian standards. However, they gradually assumed the right to participate in other activities. This trend reached a climax in 1895 when Mrs. Simpson Hayes published a book, Davin introduced a female suffrage bill in Parliament, and the Local Council of Women was formed. The ladies had previously asserted themselves in 1890 when, for the first time, three of their number voted in the town election. As tax payers, however, they could assert rights which no one yet claimed for non-tax-paying housewives. In 1891, sixty women had participated in the Rifle Club competitions and two be-skirted teams had played baseball at the farmers' May 24th picnic. In January 1896 the first ladies' hockey team was to be formed. In 1895 a further bit of feminine independence was demonstrated by a young maid who flouted the objections of a most determined father by slipping away to be married to the object of her parent's wrath. This action won evident approval from a noisy group of townspeople who gave the newly-weds a gay chivaree that night.

The best exemplification of the more independent and prominent role women were beginning to play was, however, Kate Simpson Hayes. Her new book, *Prairie Pot Pourri*, the first piece of local prose fiction, was being sold at the fair, but this was only one side of this outstanding woman's career. She did newspaper-writing as well, and she was to write more books. She wrote, produced, and acted in, the first local comedy in 1892. In 1894 Mrs. Simpson Hayes wrote a more pretentious three-act serious drama which was produced under the Lieutenant-Governor's patronage. She was prominent in all stage activity for years, producing among other things in 1895, an engaging operetta-bouffe performed entirely by small children, which starred her own talented little daughter, Bonnie. All this was in Mrs. Simpson Hayes' spare time, for her working hours were spent as

the Territorial Legislative Librarian. But she was first of all a woman, and, as town rumours had it, a woman in love. Separated from her husband, it seemed only natural that there should be a mutual attraction between the pretty, talented, vivacious Kate and the town's most debonair bachelor. It was not entirely a coincidence, many thought, that in 1895, at the end of the long *affaire de coeur*, a poem appeared in the *Leader*, lamenting the death of a love, which ran in part:

"How could I live without your word and smile?
How meet the morrow and alone? When thou and I
Together long had planned and dreamed; the while
You held my hand the hill of life, care strewn, was sweet,
And thorns to roses turned beneath my tired feet . . ."

It was written by Kathleen Simpson Hayes.

Another prominent literary woman of the era was Mrs. J. R. Marshall, who for years was an occasional contributor to the local press in verse and prose, under the pen name "Sandy Grant". Her racy Scottish humor was later collected in a volume of verse.

With the knowledge that these capable women and others were denied the vote, and with his own romantic interest in matters feminine, it is not too surprising that Davin advocated female suffrage in the House of Commons. One of the first Members of Parliament to raise the question, his requests were very moderate. He repudiated any desire to give married women the vote. His plea was only for the enfranchisement of spinsters and widows who held property and paid taxes. In a long, elaborate address the prairie M.P. sought to forestall all arguments. However, his logic was completely submerged by the ensuing flood of Parliamentary eloquence which ended with the classic declamation of a Quebec member, "Let us leave them their moral purity, their bashfulness, their sweetness . . . It ill becomes the community to change her sex and to degrade her by the exercise of the franchise." Needless to say, Davin's motion was lost.

Back in Regina, however, the women were prepared to risk "their moral purity", as they made their first concerted bid to win an active role in community activities outside the home and Church. Stirred partly by the presence of Lady Aberdeen, who was in Regina for the fair and who was the founder and president of the National Council of Women of Canada, some fifty-three women and four men attended the organization of the Regina Local Council on October 15, 1895. Eight societies affiliated originally, several gentlemen paid five dollars and became patrons, and Mrs. Lawrence A. Herchmer, wife of the Police Commissioner, became first president. At the special meetings held a month later further impetus was given to the movement when Lady Aberdeen gave an address on the workings of the Council.

It was at a less pretentious meeting in November that the Council launched its first great community enterprise, when the motion was passed that, "Whereas the town of Regina is the capital of the North-West Territories, having a population of 1800, and is the centre of the district of Assiniboia, with a population of 38,000, and that there is no hospital in the whole of this extensive district, except at Medicine Hat, 280 miles west of Regina; and whereas . . . proper accommoda-

tion for the sick is without doubt most necessary: be it resolved that the Local Council of Women of Regina, undertake to raise funds for the erection of a suitable hospital and to provide for its efficient maintenance in the town of Regina . . ." This large undertaking in so small a town mired in the depths of depression, was a more far-sighted and courageous one than any male group had dared to undertake. Indeed, when the Local Council attempted to enlist public support for the ambitious scheme in 1895 only a few men were openly sympathetic. The general response was most discouragingly apathetic. In the face of this public indifference many of the women, including the President, wanted to drop the scheme. However, an insurgent group of "Young Turks" within the Council refused to accept defeat and, before the end of the year a new President, Mrs. Paddon (wife of the popular Bank of Montreal manager) was installed and the organization was engaged in the vigorous pursuit of funds for the hospital. Organized women had begun to take their rightful place in civic affairs.

The strongest male advocates of women's political emancipation were members of a new political group known as the Patrons of Industry. Originating in the United States, where it was currently a force of considerable potency, the Patron movement had spread into Eastern Canada and latterly onto the prairies. The central idea was that by organizing, farmers could better their position through self-education and through the election of independent-farmer legislators, who were pledged to the support of Patron principles. Farm women played a considerable part in the organization and it was thus natural that one of the Patron aims was woman suffrage. Davin, who was courting this group's support, was fully aware of this fact when he introduced his famous bill.

This organization was as much social as political, however, and the Patrons' picnics at this time were entertainment highlights. There were many who had farming interests both in the Territorial capital and surrounding it, and hence many Reginans would drive out to these country gatherings nearby. Refreshment booths were set up, tent shelters erected in case of rain, and a speakers' platform was laid and roofed over with boughs from an adjacent bluff. In the afternoon activities began with the Mounted Police band playing the National Anthem and some stirring marches, then came the speeches on the plight of the farmers and the iniquities of the two-party system, followed by songs, games, swinging, pony races, a football match, a hamper lunch spread on the sod, and then dancing to the efforts of two musicians, until after midnight.

The Grits and Tories had never entertained like that and besides, those speeches made by one's own neighbours made sense. They kept hitting on the need to do something about ruinous prices: chickens and pork retailing at 8c a pound, and the farmer receiving a pitiful 39c a bushel for wheat! The drought had broken in 1895, and there were improved crop yields, but depressed prices still made times very hard. Nor were low prices the only evidence of depression. C.P.R. traffic was reduced and the railway was dismissing men or employing them only part time. The fourth annual Territorial Bonspiel was smaller than usual because many outside rinks could not afford to travel to Regina. The monthly Penny Readings continued because there were still many poor who

needed help. This organization also helped find work for unemployed men shovelling snow. The Police continued to be a great help in this work, and in addition the town's German community on one occasion gave an entertainment in the Town Hall to raise funds for the needy. Another striking evidence of economic recession was the fact that there seemed to be less new construction in 1895 than in any year since Regina had ceased to be a tent town.

One exception to the stagnation in building construction was a new \$12,000 school on Hamilton St. Yet this gain was partially offset by a series of extraordinary incidents that year. On April 1 the old Court House and Land Office, together with valuable records and a \$10,000 law library, was completely destroyed by fire. However, it was no ordinary fire and every indication pointed to the work of an incendiary. Soon after the tough, nondescript old Queen's Hotel fell victim to a holocaust, and then, for a couple of nights in a row, unoccupied frame buildings shared the same fate. So far no lives had been lost, but there was much uneasiness and many drawn faces as the ringing of the fire bell repeatedly awakened the town, with a fright, in the darkness. And always that suspicious coal tar smeared around the scene pointed to the work of a pyromaniac. A burning haystack was followed by a thwarted attempt on the *Standard* newspaper office. Conclusive evidence was uncovered by Corporal Hefferman of the mounties, and a prominent, highly-regarded citizen was arrested and subsequently convicted. The townspeople breathed much easier after that, but the fire damage had been unfortunate especially at a time when there was little new construction to make good the losses.

The continuing depression had prevented the year from being prosperous but fires, females and the fair had combined to make 1895 memorable.

EARL G. DRAKE.

RECOLLECTIONS AND REMINISCENCES—By Mrs. Allison Smith

J. D. Maveety and the Prince Albert Times

These recollections of pioneer newspaper publishing in the Prince Albert area were prepared by Mr. Maveety's daughter, Mrs. Allison Smith (née Gertrude Maveety), of Medicine Hat, Alta.

IN 1882 the West was a region of which people in Ontario had heard, but felt it was beyond the outskirts of civilization. But it was opening up. The C.P.R. was under construction and had already reached Winnipeg, and the Company was committed to continue to the West Coast. There were rumors of the opportunities in the new land, and times were not so good in old Ontario.

Early in the year John David Maveety decided to answer the call of the West. Engaged in newspaper work in Toronto, which was not very highly paid, and with a young family to think of, Mr. Maveety decided that if there were opportunities in the West he should avail himself of them, and so ensure a brighter future for his family. As the railroad had not been built along the North Shore, he travelled by St. Paul and arrived in Winnipeg in February, 1882.

Winnipeg was booming and money was plentiful, and so was work. Taking a position on the *Manitoba Free Press*, Mr. Maveety looked around, having in mind starting a paper in some Western town where prospects looked good. Finally persuaded by the silver tongue of Charles Mair, then a resident of Prince Albert, whose gift of words may have had a lot to do with the decision, he accepted the Prince Albert proposition. Another young man, Tom Spink, a practical printer, was interested and while he was without funds, wanted to join in the venture as a working partner. This was finally decided on. Mr. Maveety purchased an extensive stock of materials, including of course quantities of type, a Gordon press, and large quantities of stationery and paper—some of which was still on hand twenty years later.

In the meantime Mrs. Maveety had closed up the home in Toronto, packed what goods were being sent West and, with the two children, arrived in Winnipeg via St. Paul on the last train to arrive there for several weeks, due to terrible spring floods. Accommodation was very limited and hard to get in those boom days in Winnipeg—only a couple of rooms were available for the family. Preparations were then rushed to get started for their destination—Prince Albert in the then North-West Territories.

The Red River was on its annual rampage and then, as now, did a great deal of damage. As soon as navigation opened in the spring, the printing outfit—which included printing presses, type and supplies of paper and stationery, and the household goods and the families, were all on board a Hudson's Bay Company boat. They crossed Lake Winnipeg to the mouth of the Saskatchewan River, then up to Grand Rapids where people and goods were portaged to the head of the Rapids. Here they were placed on the Hudson's Bay steam boat "North West," and were on their way up the Saskatchewan River. Many trials were to beset them ere they reached their journey's end. Proceeding up the river into the

lonely stretches of country where, in solemn grandeur, the mighty Saskatchewan moved swiftly on its way to the sea, they reached Cedar Lake. There they were laid up for three days as there were heavy winds and there was danger that the shallow river steamer would upset, if caught by the wind. Later they arrived at Cumberland House where the late Chief Factor Belanger gave them a royal welcome, and entertained them most hospitably while goods for the Company's store were being unloaded.

Proceeding on their way they passed through beautifully wooded country along the winding reaches of the river, till they arrived at The Pas. There they were again entertained by Hudson's Bay Company officials and visited the stores. The Pas was then only an Indian village with a Hudson's Bay post.

On their way again the boat, encountering lowering water and sand bars, finally had to be abandoned and the freight and passengers transferred to York boats—large Hudson's Bay Company boats manned by several Indians and used for transporting freight for the Company. In the meanwhile the two children had developed measles and Mrs. Maveety (who had been warned by her mother, if the children ever got measles, to be sure to keep them in the dark, very warm and dry) had to nurse them, quite ill with the disease, in an open boat, and during heavy rainfall where everything got damp. However the children demonstrated they were made of the stuff required for pioneers and recovered in good shape.

The journey was wearisome to the very extreme. Leaving in June they had been three months on the way, and all were bone tired. At the "Forks", where the mighty Saskatchewan is formed by the meeting of the North and South branches, the good old Hudson's Bay Company again provided a welcome and gave a heart-warming reception to the weary travellers. Mr. and Mrs. Goodfellow (the Chief Factor and his wife) were kindness itself, and advised Mr. Maveety to break his journey at this point and transfer his printing outfit to Red River carts, and transport it the rest of the forty miles to Prince Albert that way. Mr. Maveety thought this good advice. He purchased a team of horses and a buckboard and in this conveyance Mr. and Mrs. Maveety, the two children and their necessary personal baggage journeyed to Prince Albert.

Arriving in Prince Albert, they found a house had been rented for them from Mrs. Mackay, who lived nearby and was a very kind neighbor as well as landlady. The house, a two-storey log structure, was situated on River Street. The lower storey had been used as a store. This housed the office equipment, and the four rooms upstairs housed the family.

It was a tremendous task to assemble the printing plant and get everything in order, and it was accomplished only by the most strenuous labour. Type was all set by hand and the little four-page paper was "run off" one page at a time on the Gordon press. There were numerous details to be attended to. Getting acquainted in the little town was easy, as everyone was friendly and interested. The merchants and traders all contributed their bit of advertising, interested in the novelty for one thing, and wishing to help the enterprise which they were sure would prove very valuable to the district.

The newly established paper, named *The Prince Albert Times and Saskatchewan Review*, was enthusiastically received and read all over the district, which at that time was served with mail coming in by stage coach once in two or three weeks. Often longer periods elapsed. News of local interest, as well as what could be gleaned through the meagre telegraph service, was very welcome. The paper was distributed by hand—the Editor's hand—in the town.

Prince Albert at that time consisted of practically three separate communities—the East End, where the Hudson's Bay stores were located and where the Hudson's Bay steamboats tied up in summer, the Hudson's Bay flour mill and Moore and MacDowall's lumber mills. This was all in a little group by itself. A mile west was the main part of the town—where the printing office, the post office, the Presbyterian Church and manse and the stores, several in number, were located. Then there was the West End, where the group centered in Emmanuel College, St. Mary's Anglican Church and the Bishop's house.

When the paper was published Mr. Maveety took the pony and buck-board and "delivered the papers" to the main part of the town, then to the East End and the West End. This got to be quite an event and, with good behaviour one of the requisites, one member of the family was allowed to accompany the driver on these journeys.

In the next two or three years two more babies had arrived in the Maveety household, and a new house and office had been built. The house, quite a large frame affair on a stone foundation, was heated with wood stoves. The whole lower floor was used for the printing office and the second floor, a comfortable suite of five large rooms, housed the family. This was to be the home of the family while they remained in Prince Albert.

During the Saskatchewan rebellion of 1885 the town was so isolated that there was a good deal of panic, and the militia being sent from the East were eagerly looked for. The government ordered all occupants of nearby farms and settlements to move into Prince Albert. They planned to defend the town if necessary, and a great many arrangements were made with that in view. Anyone who had room was expected to take in all the people they possibly could. The printing office was used as a barracks for the scouts who patrolled the woods south of the town. This was done largely under the direction of Mr. Maveety, who having served in the forces which repelled the Fenian Raids and having attended Military College in Kingston, was better equipped to organize this protection than most of the citizens. The billeting of the men in the printing office proved to be rather hard on the printing equipment, as twenty years later there were still boxes of "pi" type on hand as a memento of the curious ones who investigated the workings of the "print shop".

A family by the name of McFadden, Ontario farmers living five miles out in the district known as Colleston, was quartered with the Maveety household. The McFaddens themselves with four grown children and one married daughter with her husband and child made nine persons; the Maveety family now numbered six—so fifteen persons were gathered there. It is still a mystery where they all got a place to sleep.

After these troubles were finally over the task of gathering up what remained had to be undertaken. The Government sent out instructions that those who had suffered losses should put in claims. Many availed themselves of this, and some put in claims for large amounts for very minor losses. Mr. Maveety, an Irish gentleman, and one who, as they say, "bent over backwards" in his effort to be strictly just, refused to be stampeded into trying to grab some easy money. Estimating the losses of material—type and stationery—he made a modest claim for a few hundred dollars. The fact that business had been suspended for several months and that he had fed and housed such numbers were sacrifices for which he felt it would be most ignoble to ask recompense. As one can easily imagine, he died a poor man.

The paper resumed publication and business gradually improved. With the coming of the railroad people complained that the road took out all the money. Certainly many people took trips away on the trains and sent money away for goods which could not be sent in previously. Various ups and downs plagued the paper. Another publication, *The Saskatchewan*, started up and after a couple of stormy years was absorbed by the *Times*, and the name was changed to *The Saskatchewan Times*.

The printing office had before this been moved to larger quarters on River Street, and the Maveety house was all occupied by the family which now had reached (by 1897) four boys and five girls. All the older members of the family dabbled in office work—learned to set type, clean forms, take proofs, etc., etc. This work was, of course, all done by hand and by now the paper was printed on a Washington press.

In 1899 the oldest son Douglas enlisted for service with the Strathcona Horse and went to South Africa. Mr. Maveety's health was very poor and the oldest daughter Gertrude stepped into the office. The next older brother Harry and another daughter Ethel all took a part in the work. The other older sister Edith went teaching school.

Mr. Maveety passed away in 1901 at a comparatively early age. The business continued under the management of Ethel for several years, until an opportunity came to sell to advantage when Messrs. Young and Laurie became the new proprietors. Mrs. Maveety then took the two younger children and returned to her old home in Toronto, as the family were all grown and several married.

A Prairie Fire in the Zehner District

ABOUT 1 p.m., one fall afternoon in 1906, I looked out towards the West and away in the distance I saw smoke rising and I knew that that meant a prairie fire and as there wasn't much land broken up, just a small patch here and there not enough anywhere to stop that fire, therefore sometime during that day or evening it would reach us, so we began to prepare. We had quite a wide strip of breaking all around our buildings and hay stacks for a fire guard and I might say right here that one of the first things that early settlers had to do was to break up the prairie in the shape of a large square and then erect his tent and move his wagon and settlers effects, implements, feed, lumber, etc. into the centre of this square. It would not be safe to even leave a load of lumber on the prairie without having a fire guard around it, for a prairie fire might come along at any time and burn up everything and besides the loss it would mean a 30 mile trip to Dundurn in those days to get more.

Realizing the full danger of a prairie fire and what it would mean to us if a spark should jump our fire guard, we hauled barrels of water to the inside corners of the fire guard and gathered up a bunch of bags to soak in the water and to have them ready to beat out any spark or fire that might jump the guard.

The student minister who was here that day had never before seen a prairie fire and he did not realize the real danger of it, in fact he was rather pleased over the opportunity of seeing one for the first time and we had to say a few things to him to dampen his enthusiasm. We told him that we had work for him to do and that he with us would have to stand guard a little way back from the plowing with a wet sack in his hand, and if any spark or fire should jump the guard he was to pounce upon it and beat it out at once with his wet bag. Of course we also took up our positions.

It was about 4 p.m. that afternoon that this prairie fire came to the crest of the hill about a mile west of us. It had been split up by numerous sloughs further back and instead of presenting a solid front it came down over the hill in six separate columns, but it had not travelled far before these columns widened out and again it presented an unbroken line right across the prairie.

In the distance it at first looked like a golden thread, but as it came nearer we saw that the flame had spread into a vast sheet that was sweeping over the prairie bending ever forward by the force of the wind. It was a waving line of brilliant flame, sparks and burning embers were whirling in every direction. The main flame was about five feet high, but hundreds of forked tongues of fire shot up far beyond into the air and seemed to flicker with a momentary struggle for existence and then fade out. The wind now became stronger and the fire was bending forward, more myriads and myriads of bright embers and flakes of dry blazing grass were whipped up into the air and sent flying far beyond the main fire and then they would settle down again in the dry grass to start

up countless separate fires of their own away ahead of the main fire. The roaring flames drowned even the howling of the wind. The noise sounded like the roar of a stormy ocean. As this wall of flame came rushing forward every second getting nearer and nearer to our fire guard, the three of us, my brother, the minister and myself took up our positions tense and alert with a wet sack in each hand. This was one of the most anxious times that I had ever spent, for we did not know what might happen. The questions in our minds were: Would that fire jump the guard? Would it jump in one place? or would it jump in several places? and would we be able to beat it out in one place and then run and beat it out somewhere else before it had time to spread? and besides thinking of the dry grass inside the fire guard we had to think of the hay stack, supposing a flake of blazing grass should land upon it, or on the roof of the barn or house. All these things were in our minds as this sea of fire bore down upon us, but luckily for us none of these things happened. As that wall of fire struck the west fire guard in its frontal attack, that part of the fire went completely out, but of course it continued rushing along by the side fire guards. Most of the danger now was over so I left the others to still guard the place while I went out to test the speed of that fire. I had to run almost as fast as I could to keep up with it, and so in this way that fire swept past us and over the prairie. I shall never forget this, my first experience of seeing a prairie fire, especially will I remember the dense circle of smoke that rose from the long grass around the big slough on W. Chambers place one-half mile south of here. When the fire had completely passed us and all danger was over we went out to the nearest hill to have a look around.

What a change where only a short time before there had been long grass and an abundance of feed. Now, as far as the eye could reach all was waste, a scene of desolation, not a weed or a blade of grass was left standing anywhere, all was black and dismal.

Golden Jubilee News

WHILE jubilee does mean celebration in the sense of parade and pageant, speeches, music and fireworks—it means, too, a lasting commemoration of the men and women and events in the cavalcade of our history. The new Provincial Museum of Natural History dedicated to the pioneers, the jubilee History of Saskatchewan, the historic sites program—these are all important ways of remembering our past. Not as much publicity has attended what might be called an historical movement across the province. Communities and organizations are being encouraged to record their own histories as a jubilee project. Preparatory to printing a book list of all such jubilee publications, a questionnaire has been circulated by the Golden Jubilee Office to gather all possible information about these local histories. To date replies have come in with news of at least sixty proposed or already published books. Add to these the number of communities which are gathering their stories in an unpublished form, and the histories which are being compiled by Saskatchewan school children as projects in social studies—and we have probably the most unique and wholesale experiment in documenting history that has ever been attempted by one group of people.

Some of the published community histories will be distributed free, some will be sold at prices varying from 50c to \$5.00—though the most common price seems to be \$1.00. Among the interesting titles are these:

Between The Rivers—records of the past fifty years of Maidstone.

This Way, Homesteader, by Don Collins and Margaret Dunham of Carnduff.

They Rose From the Dust, by Fred A. Wilkes, concerning a half-century of pioneering around the Tugaske district.

This Was Their Life, by Mrs. Margaret Kidd—being a history of Fairmede and Brookside, reviewed in this issue of *Saskatchewan History*.

Golden Furrows—the history of Swift Current, which is reviewed in this issue of *Saskatchewan History*.

One Thousand, the intriguing title of Eastend's history.

Not all jubilee histories will deal with one community. Some will trace the development of an ethnic group, of an organization, or of one aspect of Saskatchewan's story. Examples of this type of history are these:

Fact and Fancy, by Jean Moore Stewart and A. Wilna Moore—the story of Saskatchewan's Indians from an Indian point of view.

The Saskatchewan Icelanders: A Pattern of Citizenship, by Judge W. J. Lindal.

These are the Prairies, by Zachary and Marie Hamilton, being a recounting of their own experiences.

Pioneer Geologists in Saskatchewan, by Dr. W. O. Kupsch, published by the Department of Mineral Resources, Regina.

Saskatchewan Trails and Traces, by Everett Baker, dealing with the setting of early Saskatchewan development with one hundred natural color illustrations.

The jubilee issue of *The School Trustee* magazine will contain a history of the organization.

The Municipal System of Saskatchewan—an account of the development of local government, published by the Department of Municipal Affairs.

These titles, of course, are only a sampling of the publications which will be available this year. In a short time from this writing, the Golden Jubilee Committee will issue a complete list of jubilee publications and where they can be obtained. This list will be available from the Jubilee Office, P.O. Box 1955, Regina.

The widespread enthusiasm for our history will be expressed in another medium this year—the historical pageant. The Golden Jubilee Committee has prepared a pageant entitled, *Saskatchewan—the Fiftieth Year*, which tells the story of the province from the time when uncounted numbers of buffalo roamed the prairie to the Saskatchewan of today and looking toward the future.

The pageant music includes songs which our children have been taught from School Music Broadcasts during the winter. Choral arrangements for adult groups harmonize with the school arrangements, so that choirs and school choruses may be used together in pageant productions. The staging of the pageant has been carefully designed to be within the scope of community groups. To ensure a well organized production, and to avoid conflicting productions in any one district, pageants are sent to local jubilee committees. Nearly a hundred such community productions are already underway—a sure indication of many more before the summer is over.

Such participation in community history and pageant is an experience of lasting value to the men and women, boys and girls of our province . . . the creation of a sense of perspective about our small inner circles and the ever-widening circles of our world citizenship.

Saskatchewan Golden Jubilee Committee, P.O. Box 1955, Regina.

Book Reviews

DEMOCRACY IN ALBERTA. By C. B. Macpherson. University of Toronto Press, Toronto, 1953. Pp. xii, 258. \$5.50.

SOCIAL CREDIT AND THE FEDERAL POWER IN CANADA. By J. R. Mallory. University of Toronto Press, Toronto, 1954. Pp. xii, 204. \$5.00.

THESE books are the fourth and fifth of a series sponsored by the Canadian Social Science Research Council investigating the background and development of the Social Credit movement in Alberta. Like others in the series these two are by competent craftsmen. They are good enough to stand alone as contributions to knowledge without the support of a series. Of all the books in the series which have so far appeared these two treat most directly some aspects of the objectives of the series. One is an internal study of Social Credit in Alberta and the other examines the impact of the movement in the federal scene.

Professor Macpherson's book, *Democracy in Alberta*, appeared before Professor Mallory's *Social Credit and the Federal Power*. Macpherson has given us the closely traced development of the Social Credit movement, as an ideology and as a political party. Mallory has set himself a wider task. He is interested in one main thesis: that the Social Credit government in Alberta in its attack upon economic conditions by legislative means, succeeded in reversing the decline of Federal authority in Dominion-Provincial matters. It is not in his thesis to suggest that the Social Credit movement *per se* succeeded in doing this, for it certainly was not its desire to do so. Rather, he claims, and succeeds in establishing the claim that the long term decline of laissez-faire ideology in economics and then politics, the growing collectivism in all nations had its repercussions in Canada. The mounting volume of matters requiring the attention and supervision of a strong central government had made itself felt in Canada, as in Britain, continental Europe, and even the United States.

But in Canada the central government had no strong powers left to it by the third decade of this century. Powers had been stripped away over fifty or sixty years by the prevailing philosophy of laissez-faire in government, in the courts, and in business. The end of the National Policy, the experience of one World War and the onset of the depression were changing ideas in Canada about the place of government. "Thus a change in the structure of economic theory—from whose assumptions policy is derived—accompanied by a drastic change both in economic behaviour and in the nature of the economy, had combined to cut the ground almost completely from under the Canadian Federal system. This in essence was the crisis in Canadian federalism in the period between the two World Wars", (p. 41). From this, Mallory contends, the federal power only could be enlarged to meet the new demands placed upon central governments by a direct attack on provincial powers. Social Credit enactments in Alberta provided the opportunity for this attack, and as expected in the light of changing concepts of governmental roles in the economy, the federal power was firmly re-established. The old, and disused, powers of disallowance were found still to be effective, and the strong "property and civil rights" clause of the provincial constitutions gave way before the federal powers enumerated in the British North America Act.

Professor C. B. Macpherson's book, *Democracy in Alberta*, is entirely different in scope. Here is no attempt to find in Social Credit an instrument of Canadian federal growth. To Professor Macpherson Social Credit is an interesting—indeed a phenomenal—outgrowth of western Canadian development. To those who have not undertaken a close and specialized study of the principles and practices of Social Credit it is an unexplained, and inexplicable, blister on the otherwise orthodox body politic. But Macpherson succeeds quite well in showing that the Social Credit movement is strictly within the bounds of logical development in Alberta if we will but grant him his assumptions. These assumptions, put very briefly, are first, that political action is determined by economic class which "is defined by the individual's relation to the means of productive labor" (p. 14) and second, that economic classes are so homogeneous in the west that the orthodox two-party tradition has never succeeded in establishing itself. "The absence of any serious opposition of class interests within the province (of Alberta) meant that alternate parties were not needed either to express or to moderate a perennial conflict of interests". (p. 21).

Within these assumptions the development of Social Credit is traced by an analysis of the agrarian and political movement of the United Farmers of Alberta. Then follows the development of the "pure" Social Credit of Major Douglas and its adoption and adaptation in Alberta. In this fine and strongly developed political history and analysis lies the strength of Macpherson's work. He is a competent craftsman in political science. He picks out what are to him the significant parts of the U.F.A. political theory of government, and by a similarly careful examination of Social Credit theories of government he constructs a well-buttressed case for the logic of Social Credit in Alberta.

The questions not answered by the book become more vexatious to the reader for having been presented with a strong case for the political development of Alberta. If Macpherson's assumptions are correct for Alberta, why not for Saskatchewan, and perhaps Manitoba? Why did Alberta conditions lead to very particular ideas about democracy in the U.F.A. but not in the old Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association or the United Farmers of Manitoba? It is not fair to ask that Professor Macpherson should have answered these questions in the present work, but this reviewer is not satisfied the conditions so carefully laid out to explain the Alberta case should not also apply to Saskatchewan, and perhaps Manitoba.

These unanswered questions leave a prevailing doubt about *Democracy in Alberta*. Surely the basic fact upon which the assumptions rest, a fact rather painfully demonstrated in a discouraging first chapter, also applies to Saskatchewan. The "independent commodity producer" makes up a large homogeneous class in both provinces. Yet the Saskatchewan reaction against a position of economic colonialism involved no fundamental aberration in democratic theory or parliamentary practice. Admitting a similarity in early forms of reaction against the "eastern interests" and the "old parties," it remains still to be explained why reaction in one area led to theories of "plebiscitarian democracy" so different from the reaction in a neighboring, similarly homogeneous province. Are the assumptions basic to the Alberta analysis wrong or can the C.C.F. move-

ment be explained in the framework of analysis constructed for Alberta? Professor Macpherson's last section on "the General Theory" does not supply a clue. Perhaps in a later work he will continue his examination of the Western Provinces within the mold he made for Alberta.

F. W. ANDERSON.

BEHOLD THE SHINING MOUNTAINS. Being an account of the travels of Anthony Henday, 1754-55, the first white man to enter Alberta. By James G. MacGregor. Edmonton; Applied Arts Products Ltd., 1954. Pp. 276, illus., maps. Paper \$2.50, cloth \$4.75.

ANTHONY HENDAY was a Hudson's Bay Company man who travelled with a party of Cree Indians far inland from York Fort to visit the Indians of the plains. His instructions were to proceed "to the Keischachewon, Missinne pee, Earchithinue, Esinepoet, or any other Country Indians that we have not as yet any traffick with . . . converse with them, making them presents, perswading them to be at peace, and not to Warr . . . but to hunt and gett goods, and bring them to the fort'.¹ In the course of a year's journey Henday met bands of the Esinepoet or Assiniboine Indians, and visited large camps of Earchithinue, who seem to have been either the Blackfoot or the Gros Ventre Indians.² Henday found it hard to induce the plains' tribes to make the long trip by canoe to Hudson Bay. The Assiniboine told him that they were conveniently supplied with goods by French traders on the lower Saskatchewan. The "Great Leader" of the Earchithinue said that York Fort "was far off, & they could not live without Buffalo flesh . . . though all [obstacles] might be got over if they were acquainted with a Canoe, and could eat Fish, which they never do."³

Anthony Henday was not the first employee of his Company to go inland to the prairies, for Henry Kelsey had been with the Assiniboine in 1690-92. Henday, however, went farther west than Kelsey is reported to have gone. Henday is believed to have been within sight of mountains in the early winter months of 1754 and, as it is unlikely that the French had gone beyond the Forks of the Saskatchewan, he was probably the first European to see the Canadian Rockies.

Henday kept a record of his observations but unfortunately the original copy of his journal has been lost. Three versions have survived which differ widely in detail. There is an official copy that was edited by Chief Factor Isham before it was sent over to the Governor and Committee in London. There also are the two versions made by Andrew Graham, an accountant at York Fort, for use in his own *Observations* published at a later date. All three versions of Henday's journal have been preserved in the Archives of the Hudson's Bay Company in

¹ C. P. Wilson, "Crossing the Prairies Two Centuries Ago," in *Canadian Historical Association Report* for 1954, p. 30.

² Most historians assume that they were the Blackfoot but an eminent anthropologist, Dr. Clark Wissler, identified these Indians as the Gros Ventre or Waterfall Indians. See his study on "Population Changes among the Northern Plains Indians" in *Yale University Publications in Anthropology*, No. 1 (New Haven, 1936).

³ L. J. Burpee, "York Factory to the Blackfeet Country," in *Transactions of the Royal Society of Canada* for 1907, p. 338.

London. A transcript of the second Graham copy is in the Public Archives of Canada at Ottawa.⁴ It was edited by Dr. L. J. Burpee and printed in the *Transactions of the Royal Society of Canada* for 1907.

The task of identifying Henday's route was attempted first by Dr. Burpee who had only the information provided by the copy of the journal he had edited. His findings were revised by Dr. A. S. Morton after study of all three of the versions in the Hudson's Bay Company Archives. Neither Dr. Burpee nor Dr. Morton was able to test his conclusions by observations in the field but Mr. J. G. MacGregor, an engineer who has long been interested in western history, has recently done this essential work for the part of Henday's course that lies west of Saskatoon. Mr. MacGregor obtained transcripts from the Hudson's Bay Company Archives of portions of the unpublished copies that contain descriptions of the country. He used these extracts and the printed copy of the journal to plot Henday's course and then checked his work by observations on the ground. He found that Henday's estimates of distance and direction are unreliable but, after careful examination of the terrain over which Henday's party had travelled, he was able to select a route that conforms to Henday's description of creeks, hills, and other natural features. The results are plausible but "inconclusive in the sense that they cannot be proved to be correct."⁵ Mr. MacGregor himself says in an unpublished supplement to his book:

Do I know beyond any shadow of doubt where Henday went? The answer . . . is disappointing. It is 'No.'

A few times, such as at the mouth of Eaglehill Creek some thirty miles from Saskatoon, at the Battle River near Donalda, and at the Red Deer River some fifteen miles from Stettler, I felt that I was standing within possibly one hundred yards of where Henday stood. At other times all I felt justified in saying was that Henday must have passed within a mile of where I stood. And then, at other times, my location could have been five miles out.⁶

Mr. MacGregor does not regret, however, the time and energy that he devoted to study of the problem. He thoroughly enjoyed the beauty of the prairies when trying to retrace by car the exact course that Henday took. He discovered that

Not far behind this in pleasure was the thrill of trying to cast one's mind back two hundred years to see this country as it was when the very first white man looked back over the valley of Eaglehill Creek, or, from somewhere in the vicinity of Innisfail, looked west and saw the morning sun on the glorious Rocky Mountains.⁷

Mr. MacGregor has told the story of his investigation in the book to which he has given the arresting title: *Behold the Shining Mountains*. He is not primarily concerned with providing reasons for his conclusions as to Henday's route. In fact he has relegated that kind of information to a supplementary booklet. Instead

⁴ Wilson, *op. cit.*, p. 29.

⁵ J. G. MacGregor, "A Study of Henday's Route from his Crossing of the South Saskatchewan till his Return Downstream the Following Spring. To be read in conjunction with *Behold the Shining Mountains*." p. 4. Unpublished ms., Archives of Saskatchewan.

⁶ *Ibid.*, pp. 3-4.

⁷ *Ibid.*

he wants to share with the "general reader" the colorful material that he has gathered about the "unforgettable" Henday and the stirring events that took place at a later time along the route that Henday followed. Mr. MacGregor hopes, no doubt, to encourage others to seek "joyful hours" in projects similar to his own.

The most attractive chapters in the book, in the opinion of this reviewer, are those in which the author describes Henday's crossing of the prairies and visit to the great camp of the Earchithinue near the Red Deer river in Alberta. Mr. MacGregor found lively material in Henday's account of this part of the journey it is true, but he is fortunate also in having had at his disposal a great fund of information about the character of the country and the customs of the natives upon which he drew heavily to heighten the color of his narrative and maintain the reader's interest. Perhaps few readers will concur in Mr. MacGregor's opinion that Henday was "one of the world's great travellers" but many will conclude, as did Dr. A. S. Morton in his *History of the Canadian West*, that Henday made "one of the most astonishing journeys in the astonishing history of the fur trade of the North-West."⁸

JEAN E. MURRAY.

THE HUMBOLDT STORY, 1903-1953. By Robert W. Grant. Humboldt Board of Trade, 1954. Pp. 65, illus. \$1.50.

A NOTEWORTHY characteristic of the growth of many communities in both Western Canada and the Western United States was the rapidity with which they developed from pioneer settlements into thriving towns and cities. Humboldt was such a town. Ten years following its founding Humboldt had grown "from a patch of raw prairie, bush and slough to a substantial town, with graded streets, cement sidewalks, a complete water, sewerage, and electric light system, a modern hospital, public and separate schools, and a high school, and a substantial Town Hall." It was also the centre of a Judicial District and of a Land Registration District.

One of the most interesting sections of *The Humboldt Story*, as told by Robert Grant, a very early settler of the area, concerns the settlement of the Saskatchewan Valley in which Humboldt is situated. He tells how a deal between the Qu'Appelle, Long Lake and Saskatchewan Valley Railroad and Steamship Company and two enterprising Canadians, Davidson and McRae, brought a rush of settlers, predominantly American, to the Valley at the turn of the century. The immediate agency of settlement for the Humboldt district, however, was the Roman Catholic Order of St. Benedict which secured colonization rights to about fifty townships and established St. Peter's Colony of which Humboldt is a part.

The centre of a fertile and prosperous agricultural district, Humboldt had from the first a vigorous and rapidly expanding business life and it is this aspect which Mr. Grant has emphasized. Adequate attention has been given to "first

⁸ P. 249.

things." Little has been told of the history of the town's local government apart from a listing of the mayors, the results of the municipal elections in 1907 when Humboldt was incorporated as a town, and references to its financial difficulties following the 1914-18 war. The author has given in some detail the story of St. Elizabeth's Hospital, rather unique in that it was established, in 1911, by an Austrian sisterhood. His description of the town's difficulties with its water supply draws attention to the considerable drop in the water level on the prairies resulting from the clearing of land for agricultural purposes. There are brief chapters on the churches, the schools, service clubs and fraternal societies, and sports. The book is illustrated with numerous interesting photographs.

In the final chapter the author states that he has "attempted to compile a record of the founding and building of the town of Humboldt and the causes leading to the settlement of the town and district." Within the limits he has set himself, Mr. Grant has produced an interesting, comprehensive and workmanlike history of Humboldt.

CHRISTINE MACDONALD.

GOLDEN FURROWS. An Historical Chronicle of Swift Current. *Dave and Alice Belbeck* (eds.). Swift Current: Local Council of Women, 1954. Pp. 55, illus. \$1.00. Distributed by Mrs. W. Brunyee, 132 Lorne Street, Swift Current, Sask.

THIS local history was published by the Swift Current Local Council of Women in "commemoration of Saskatchewan's Golden Jubilee and as a mark of respect to its pioneers." Under the capable direction of the Council's Archives Committee, the project became a co-operative effort. A large number of local residents shared in the compilation of material, pioneers contributed reminiscences, others supplied historical pictures, and local business and professional men provided financial support towards its publication. The appropriate gold and white cover design, some fifty interesting photographs, and numerous sketches combine to balance the easily read type with attractive illustrations.

The story of Swift Current is unfolded in a series of short articles on various phases of development and activities carried on in the community. Appropriate attention is paid to the geographical setting and the agricultural progress of the district. Anecdotes of pioneer life add interest and color to the narrative. These are augmented by reminiscences supplied by pioneers of settlements in the immediate trading area tributary to Swift Current. Further colorful material is added in the extension of the locale of the history to include Saskatchewan Landing, important both in the days of its ferry and its modern highway bridge to the commerce of Swift Current.

Some readers would perhaps have liked further details of certain developments. For example, the inauguration of a private telephone system is mentioned. Dates and details of its operation would be of general interest and would provide useful information for comparison with similar undertakings elsewhere in the province. A more serious omission is the dismissal of early local government with the statement, "The village of Swift Current emerged from its infancy in 1907,

when it was incorporated as a town." While municipal records for this period may be few, the incorporation of the village on February 4, 1904, and the names of persons such as Fred Jones and J. G. Maxwell, the early overseers, might have been included. There are a few inaccuracies in the text. Residents of Battleford may raise their eyebrows at the statement that Colonel Otter's troops were marching to relieve "The Battlefords", and surely the Indians rounded up along with the Crees were Chippewas (Saulteaux), rather than "Chippewyans", more likely to be found north of the Churchill River! However, these observations are not intended to detract from a useful and well-presented local history, a fitting tribute to the courage and perseverance of the pioneers of the Swift Current community.

ALLAN R. TURNER.

THIS WAS THEIR LIFE. *By Margaret Kidd.* Printed by Mid-West Litho, Saskatoon; distributed by Miss Marjorie Kidd, Box 652, Kindersley, 1955. Pp. 84. \$3.50.

"IF some of these tales seem trivial, it may be said that our lives are made of trivial things, and we set them down in the hope that they may sometimes bring a smile to the reader's face and relieve the monotony of bare facts and figures", Mrs. Kidd writes in the preface to her book. And in her account of early days the significance of the apparently trivial is revealed in the warmth and understanding with which seemingly small incidents illuminate the story of the lives of pioneer people. She tells of her first memory of a picnic "sitting under a table with a group of other children while a small shower passed over", of the wedding which was postponed when the groom arrived, black faced and sweating, only to gather men to fight a prairie fire, and of the New Year's Eve parties when, in observance of the old British custom, "Mr. Yeo was usually the dark man who went outside in the dying minutes of the old year and came in with the New, to bring good luck to the house."

But Mrs. Kidd's book is not of trivialities. As indicated by the title, it is a picture of the full range of pioneer life, of the problems that had to be faced and the devices used to meet them. It is a story of people rather than of a town or a community, not a history in the formal sense of the word, but a series of accounts of the early settlers of the Fairmede and Brookside districts south-west of Wapella, written by Mrs. Kidd and by other contributors. It has thus been possible to include various observations and incidental features and happenings forming part of the pattern of pioneer life which might not have found a place in the ordinary type of community history. The Brookside Homemakers' Club, to whom the story is dedicated, and "whose demands gave it birth", as well as others in the community, may well cherish this account of early settlement of their part of the province.

EVELYN EAGER.

Notes and Correspondence

THE Senate of The University of Manitoba invites applications for grants from the John S. Ewart Memorial Fund. The Fund was established to make possible grants for travel to the Public Archives of Canada, Ottawa, by students of Canadian history and writers on historical themes from the four western provinces of Canada. Information will be supplied and applications received by the Registrar, The University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

From Saskatchewan Homemakers' Kitchens, is the title of an attractively illustrated cookbook published as a Golden Jubilee Project by the Homemakers' Clubs of the province. In addition to the recipes, the book contains short articles on the history of the organization and on pioneer life. Among the illustrations are twelve sketches by A. W. Davey. Orders for the book, which sells for \$2.00, may be addressed to: Cookbook, Women's Service, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon.

A neatly arranged 26-page mimeographed booklet entitled *Nottawa, 1904-1914*, has been issued by the Nottawa Historical Society, and was distributed at the Old Timers' Reunion and Memorial Day on July 7, 1954, at Nottawa school. Members of the Society reside in or near Adanac, Phippen and Wilkie. The booklet contains brief biographical sketches of the earliest settlers, reminiscences, names of clergymen and teachers who labored in the district, and six excellent illustrations.

C. C. Feenie, a Saskatchewan pioneer now living at Gray Creek, B.C., writes that a copy of Vol. VII, No. 2 of *Saskatchewan History* was loaned to him and he was surprised to find his picture on page 66, in the article by the Rev. James A. Donaghy. Commenting on the picture, he writes: "I am the one sitting on the plow, standing by the plow is my mother. Mr. Summerby, my step-father, is holding the handles of the walking plow, the others are my two sisters and two brothers."

Miss Florence H. T. Barker of the Wolverine Hobby and Historical Society has provided the following reports on recent meetings of the Society held at Spy Hill. The January meeting was addressed by Mrs. John Collins of Gerald, who gave a talk on her native land, Holland. The members also discussed the preservation of the site of the Hamona community (Harmony Industrial Association) and the proposal of the Saskatoon Archaeological Society that a survey be made of archaeological sites likely to be inundated by the proposed South Saskatchewan River dam. At the February meeting a talk on birds was given by Mrs. J. A. McNutt of Spy Hill, and a suggestion that a highway linking the historic sites and scenic features of the Qu'Appelle Valley was discussed.

Meetings of the Society are held monthly, and prospective members may take out a membership including a subscription to *Saskatchewan History* for \$1.50.

Mr. F. Hal Higgins of Walnut Creek, California, who has made a close study of the evolution of the combine harvester, has kindly supplied material which supplements and corrects some of the data contained in the article "Early Combines in Saskatchewan" (*Saskatchewan History*, Vol. VIII, pp. 1-5). According to an article written by Mr. Higgins for *California Farmer* (March 25, 1950) the first combines were introduced into that state in the 1850's.

A Holt Manufacturing Co. catalogue for 1912, in the possession of Mr. Higgins, reproduces a picture of the Holt Harvester on the farm of Messrs. Shand and Edmonds at Welby and also a letter from the partners testifying to the success of the machine during the 1911 harvest. *The Holt Bulletin* (Canadian Edition) for April, 1913, describes the experience of the Elizabeth Farm Co. of Tilley, Alberta, with a Holt Harvester during the 1912 season. This combine was drawn by a 60 H.P. Holt Caterpillar Gas Tractor. It would appear, therefore, that Holt combines were the first used in both Alberta and Saskatchewan.

Contributors

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